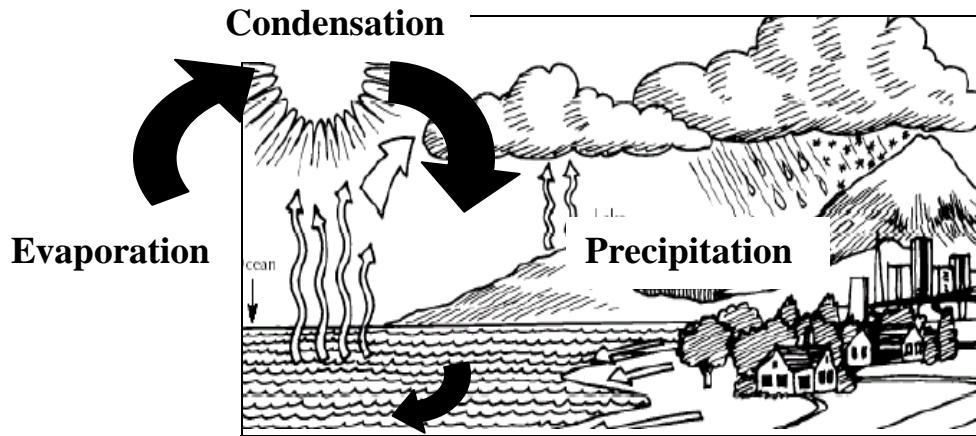


Weather The Water Cycle



Where does the water that causes rain come from? Actually, the water was there all along. All of the water in the whole world has always been here. Think of all of the oceans and lakes on the globe. This is where the tiny water particles in the air come from. But how does this happen?

The earth's **water cycle**¹ begins with a change in temperature. When the sun heats the earth, water from oceans, lakes, and rivers evaporates. It turns into an invisible gas or vapor. Water molecules rise into the air. Eventually, clouds form and the water drops back to earth as rain. The rain flows into rivers or streams back to the ocean or lakes again. Do you see the arrows in the picture? These arrows show the path of water from the ocean, to the sky, and then back to the earth. This is the water cycle.

Condensation² also plays a big role in the creation of rain. The air far up in the sky can be very cold. When the warm air that contains invisible water droplets rises from earth and meets cold air, the droplets become visible. This process is called condensation. Clouds are formed as the air high up becomes colder and heavier. When the water drops grow too heavy to be held by the air, they fall out of the clouds as **precipitation**,³ or rain. The rain runs into the Earth's oceans, rivers, and lakes. Then, the cycle starts all over again!

¹ **Water cycle**- the water cycle is the processes of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation that brings the rain

² **Condensation**- when water particles or water vapor come together to form a liquid. Condensation makes clouds

³ **Precipitation**- rain, hail, mist, sleet, snow or ice falling from the sky

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What do all of the arrows in the picture represent?
 - a. Lakes
 - b. The movement of water
 - c. Evaporation
 - d. Condensation

2. In the water cycle, lake water will do which of the following first?
 - a. Turn into water vapor in the air
 - b. Condense
 - c. Turn into rain
 - d. Turn into a cloud

3. Water vapor in the air will do which of the following last?
 - a. Flow into oceans, rivers, and lakes as rainwater
 - b. Turn into a cloud
 - c. Turn into rain
 - d. Disappear

4. What force causes the water cycle to start?
 - a. Evaporation
 - b. Condensation
 - c. Precipitation
 - d. Temperature change

5. The passage is mostly about
 - a. The differences between condensation and precipitation
 - b. How the sun causes rain
 - c. How water goes through different phases on earth
 - d. How rain moves in a circle

6. What do you think the author's purpose might be for writing this passage?

7. What is condensation?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The water cycle has a bunch of different stages, _____ condensation.

- a. also
- b. and
- c. except
- d. including

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

The water cycle begins again after rain falls into rivers and lakes.

What? the water cycle

(does) What? _____

When? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** precipitation: rain.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 680

Featured Text Structure: Sequence – the writer provides an order of events or steps in a process

Passage Summary: Water moves through the earth in a cycle – the water cycle. In the cycle, the sun's heat makes water evaporate, and the evaporated water condenses into clouds, which then produce precipitation, or rain.

1. What do all of the arrows in the picture represent?
 - a. Lakes
 - b. The movement of water**
 - c. Evaporation
 - d. Condensation
2. In the water cycle, lake water will do which of the following first?
 - a. Turn into water vapor in the air**
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 - c. How water goes through different phases on earth**
 - d. How rain moves in a circle

6. What do you think the author's purpose might be for writing this passage?

Suggested answer: The author wants to inform readers about the earth's water cycle and how it works.

7. What is condensation?

Suggested answer: Condensation is when invisible water droplets rise from the earth, meet cold air, and become visible.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

The water cycle has a bunch of different stages, _____ condensation.

- a. also
- b. and
- c. except
- d. **including**

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

The water cycle begins again after rain falls into rivers and lakes.

What? the water cycle

(does) What? **begins again**

When? **after rain falls into rivers and lakes**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** precipitation: rain.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.